

November 16, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC, 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

We transmit correspondence today regarding the FCC's rulemaking proceeding (MB Docket 07-42). It is the hope of many elected officials in Texas your commission will take action to protect consumers from unfair practices by large cable companies that promote channels they own over independent programming.

Several Texas Legislators have expressed their support for regulatory relief under MB Docket 07-42 because they have heard from concerned constituents, in particular as it relates to large cable companies refusing to offer the NFL Network in their basic, digital package.

As free market advocates, they contend there is a valid basis for the FCC to intervene in order to protect consumers. I have enclosed copies of recent letters to you on this issue, and recent media coverage in Texas reflecting growing discontent among many with cable's practices.

Thank you for your consideration of this consumer protection and of the free market. Please file these in the docket aforementioned.

Sincerely,

Neal T. "Buddy" Jones

NTJ:kp

Enclosure

State of Texas  
House of Representatives



VALINDA BOLTON  
District 47

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

November 7, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

College fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls which are also carried by the NFL Network. These two bowls have significant ties to the Big 12 Conference and Conference USA making it more than likely that one, or both, teams playing could hail from the Lonestar State. These games have provided Texas football fans with exciting outcomes in recent years. In fact, Texas Tech University staged the largest come from behind victory in college bowl history in last year's Insight Bowl.

P.O. BOX 2910 ★ AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 ★ 512-463-0652  
valinda.bolton@house.state.tx.us

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible -- and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month. It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans involved in this dispute are being held hostage while the corporate interests fight with one another. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valinda Bolton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Representative Valinda Bolton

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners



*Fred Brown*  
*State Representative*  
*District 14*

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
512/463-0698  
FAX: 512/463-5109  
CAPITOL OFFICE ROOM  
GW.04

DISTRICT  
1920 WEST VILLA MARIA ROAD  
SUITE 303  
BRYAN, TEXAS 77807  
979/822-9797  
FAX: 979/822-7979

November 6, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Kevin Martin:

On behalf of my constituents and the people of Texas, I am writing to you in hopes that you will consider my request for the Federal Communications Commission's assistance in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission could address this issue in the coming weeks. It appears that an independent, neutral mediator needs to be appointed to help resolve the dispute.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my duty to represent and support football fans and consumers of Texas. Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL network. In addition, college fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls, which are also carried by the NFL Network.

The only way for there to be true competitive access in cable programming is to allow consumers' demands to have precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with football fans and the consumers, and appoint a neutral mediator to help resolve this dispute as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Brown".

Fred Brown  
State Representative

Committees:

Appropriations • Higher Education, CBO • Chair, Sub-Committee on Regulatory • Local & Consent

# TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
P.O. BOX 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
512-463-0740  
EMAIL: LON.BURNAM@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US



DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1067 MAGNOLIA  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76104  
817-924-1997

## LON BURNAM DISTRICT 90 • FORT WORTH

November 12, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554  
[Via fax and mail]

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

I have received correspondence from constituents asking for my help in regards to the dispute between some cable operators and the NFL Network. I understand that the FCC has opened a rulemaking proceeding (**MB Docket 07-42**) to consider program carriage issues such as these – particularly as they relate to independent and diverse channels. The Texas Legislature only meets every two years and will not meet again until after the 2008 football season has concluded so any legislative remedy is impossible. Therefore, I am writing to respectfully ask the Commission to assist in resolving the current dispute.

I believe that if a resolution cannot be achieved in the next few days, an independent neutral arbitrator should be appointed to bring the stakeholders together. I do not wish to take sides in this matter. I only ask that a third party be brought in with the power to resolve the issue so that my constituents and football fans throughout Texas will be able to see the games carried by the NFL Network. Of course, the two Cowboys games that will air on the network this season are the primary concern for my constituents in Fort Worth.

Again, I respectfully ask that you take action to encourage a resolution of this dispute quickly. I understand that this is a federal issue, but I am copying the Texas Public Utility Commission to inform them of my concern.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lon Burnam".

Lon Burnam

Cc: Texas Public Utility Commissioners

The State of Texas  
House of Representatives

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910  
FL302  
Tel: 512-463-0880  
Fax: 512-463-2188



**Dan Flynn**  
State Representative • District 2

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 999  
Canton, Texas 75103-0999  
Tel: 903-667-0921  
Fax: 903-667-0923

Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW  
Room 8-13201  
Washington, DC 20554

November 5, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

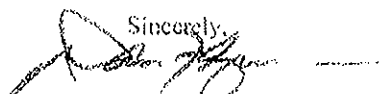
As I have received inquiries concerning issues before your commission, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears this issue could be resolved in a more timely manner for consumers and football fans if an independent, neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to see this issue resolved as soon as possible. Since football fans and consumers in Texas have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football, I would appreciate an opportunity for a third party to be a part of this solution.

Fans across Texas could be deeply disappointed if they missed key games, and unless there is a resolution between the parties, fans across the state could possibly miss key games and possibly additional late-season games.

I favor true competitive access in programming and I respectfully ask that you assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible. It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games.

I understand that primary jurisdiction resides with the Federal Government, and I would like to thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,  
  
Dan Flynn  
State Representative  
Texas House District 2

Sunset Advisory Commission  
Committees:  
Vice-Chair, Financial Institutions, State Affairs  
dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us



**Tony Goolsby**  
*House of Representatives • District 102*  
 Committees

*House Administration, Chairman • Judiciary • Licensing and Administrative Procedures  
 Speaker's Select Interim Committee on Higher Education • Texas Legislative Tourism Caucus, Secretary  
 American Legislative Exchange Council • Energy Council • Texans Care for Children • National Conference of State Legislators*

November 8, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
 Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
 FCC Commissioners  
 445 12th Street SW  
 Room: 3-B201  
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

I know you have been and will continue to receive many letters like this. I have received many inquiries from my constituents and I would like to request that the FCC assist in resolving this dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the FCC could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. College fans will miss untold number of games that are important to them. You probably have a certain team in mind that is special to you.

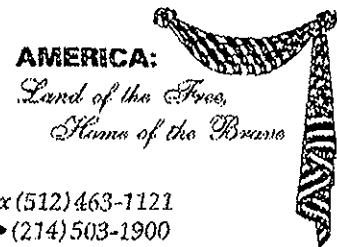
For true competition to exist in cable programming, consumer demand must take priority over corporate profits. I just ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue. Again, I know that you'll be getting a lot of letters on this but this is from the heart. If we can discuss this any further, please do not hesitate to contact my Capitol office. Your questions and comments are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Tony Goolsby  
 State Representative  
 District 102

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners



Capitol Office: P.O. Box 2910 • Austin, Texas 78768-2910 (512) 463-0454 • Fax (512) 463-1121  
 District Office: 6211 W. Northwest Hwy., Suite G-104 • Dallas, Texas 75225 • (214) 503-1900  
<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist102/goolsby.htm>

State of Texas  
House of Representatives



CAPITOL OFFICE:  
P.O. BOX 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
512-463-0641  
FAX: (512) 463-0044

Linda Harper-Brown  
DISTRICT 105

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
125 E. JOHN CARPENTER  
SUITE 250A  
IRVING, TEXAS 75062  
(972) 401-8825  
FAX: (972) 401-0798

November 15, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

College fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls which are also carried by the NFL Network. These two bowls have significant ties to the Big 12 Conference and Conference USA making it more than likely that one, or both, teams playing could hail from the Lone Star State. These games have provided Texas football fans with exciting outcomes in recent years. In fact,



Texas Tech University staged the largest come from behind victory in college bowl history in last year's Insight Bowl.

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible – and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month. It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans involved in this dispute are being held hostage while the corporate interests fight with one another. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,

State Representative Linda Harper-Brown

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda Harper-Brown". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners

P.O. Box 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0462  
(512) 463-1705 (FAX)  
(866) 861-0806 (TOLL FREE)

ARIEL HERRERO  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 54

606 N. CARANCAHUA  
SUITE 103A  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78476-2001  
(361) 882-2277  
(FAX) (361) 882-6706

November 8, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It may very well be that the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While I will not take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, I must voice the concerns of constituents who have contacted me in an effort to address this issue.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible -- and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month.

E-MAIL: [ARIEL.HERRERO@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US](mailto:ARIEL.HERRERO@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US)

It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans affected by this dispute are currently being ignored. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely, .

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Abel Herrero". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Abel Herrero

State Representative, District 34



THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CHAIRMAN Local Government Ways and Means

Transportation

Legislative Budget Board

FRED HILL

November 6, 2007

FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW  
Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, my constituents will either have to miss Cowboys games, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

College fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls which are also carried by the NFL Network. These two bowls have significant ties to the Big 12 Conference of which Texas teams are a member.

I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible – and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Hill".

Fred Hill

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. Box 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0670  
FAX (512) 463-1469



**MIKE KRUSEE**

CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION  
JUDICIARY

November 8, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the consumers and football fans of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as NFL football season in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss some important games, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider, if one is available.

College fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls which are also carried by the NFL Network. These two bowls have significant ties to the Big 12 Conference and Conference USA making it more than likely that one, or both, teams playing could hail from the Lonestar State. These games have provided Texas football fans with exciting outcomes in recent years. In fact, Texas Tech University staged the largest come from behind victory in college bowl history in last year's Insight Bowl.



District 52

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible -- and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month. It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching football games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans involved in this dispute are being held hostage while the corporate interests fight with one another. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,



Mike Krusee

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners



JODIE LAUBENBERG  
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 6, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

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For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible -- and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month. It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans involved in this dispute are being held hostage while the corporate interests fight with one another. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodie Laubenberg".

Jodie Laubenberg  
State Representative, District 89

cc: The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Paul Hudson  
Chairman, Public Utility Commission of Texas  
The Honorable Julie Caruthers Parsley  
Commissioner, Public Utility Commission of Texas  
The Honorable Barry T. Smitherman  
Commissioner, Public Utility Commission of Texas



# Diane Patrick

State Representative  
District 94



Capitol Office  
P.O. Box 2912  
Austin, Texas 78768-2912  
(512) 463-9624  
(512) 463-8386 Fax

District Office  
318 W. Main Street  
Suite 402  
Arlington, Texas 76010  
(817) 548-9291  
Fax (817) 548-0971

November 7, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners,

Constituents from my District 94-Arlington (future home of the Cowboys 2009) have recently contacted our office with concerns about their forthcoming ability to view some college and professional football games on television due to the ongoing dispute between the NFL Network and cable operators. I am requesting that the Federal Communications Commission appoint an independent arbitrator who would be neutral in resolving this issue.

The Dallas Cowboy football games are very popular in Texas; however, eight key NFL games broadcast by the NFL Network apparently will not be available to many Texas football fans. I am not taking the position of either the NFL Network or the cable operators in this matter, but I do advocate for my constituents who deserve to be able to watch the Cowboy games, as well as the Insight and Texas Bowls carried by the NFL Network since they are definitely linked to the Conference USA and the Big 12 Conference.

My constituents and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this issue and hope that you will consider assigning a neutral arbitrator in a timely fashion in order for the dispute to be settled prior to the first of such games. Although I recognize that these cable issues are mainly under the jurisdiction of the federal government, I am sending a copy of this correspondence to the Texas Public Utility Commission in an effort to ensure maximum consumer protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Patrick".

Diane Patrick, Ph.D.  
State Representative District 94

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners

COMMITTEES:

HIGHER EDUCATION • PUBLIC EDUCATION • LOCAL & CONSENT CALENDARS

STATE OF TEXAS  
House OF REPRESENTATIVES



P.O. BOX 2910  
AUSTIN, TX 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0356  
Fax: (512) 463-0701

KEN PAXTON  
DISTRICT 70

201 W. VIRGINIA  
MCKINNEY, TX 75069  
(972) 562-4543  
Fax: (972) 548-8469

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

November 14, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral mediator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.



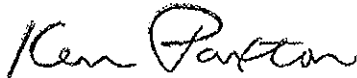
ken.paxton@house.state.tx.us

College fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls which are also carried by the NFL Network. These two bowls have significant ties to the Big 12 Conference and Conference USA making it more than likely that one, or both, teams playing could hail from the Lonestar State. These games have provided Texas football fans with exciting outcomes in recent years. In fact, Texas Tech University staged the largest come from behind victory in college bowl history in last year's Insight Bowl.

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral mediator to settle this dispute as soon as possible -- and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month. It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans involved in this dispute are being held hostage while the corporate interests fight with one another. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Paxton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" and last name "Paxton" clearly distinguishable.

The Honorable Ken Paxton

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners



Paula Pierson  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

November 9, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

College fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls which are also carried by the NFL Network. These two bowls have significant ties to the Big 12 Conference and Conference USA making it more than likely that one, or both, teams playing could hail from the Lone Star State. These games have provided Texas football fans with exciting outcomes in recent years. In fact, Texas Tech University staged the largest come from behind victory in college bowl history in last year's Insight Bowl.

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you to assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES \* COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE  
DISTRICT 93: ARLINGTON, GRAND PRAIRIE AND MANSFIELD  
AUSTIN OFFICE: P.O. BOX 2910 \* AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 \* 512-463-0562  
DISTRICT OFFICE: 1201 N. WATSON RD \* SUITE 295 \* ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76006 \* 817-385-4786  
E-MAIL: DISTRICT93\_PIERSON@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Pierson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paula Pierson

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners

AUSTIN OFFICE:  
P. O. BOX 2010  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2010  
512-463-0452  
FAX: 512-463-1447



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**ROBERT R. PUENTE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 119

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
2823 E. SOUTHCROSS  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78223  
210-532-8899  
FAX: 210-532-4884

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

October 10, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is our understanding the Federal Communications Commission has launched several proceedings concerning cable television programming to address, among other questions, whether some cable system operators give preferential treatment to channels they own to the detriment of independently-owned programming and the competitive marketplace. As legislators who voted on pioneering telecommunications legislation that enhanced consumer choice and competition, we are especially concerned as representatives of the summer home of the Dallas Cowboys – Bexar County – that two of their late-season games will not be aired by our dominant local cable provider because of a dispute with the NFL Network.

While it is not our desire to take sides in this dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is our desire to side with San Antonio-area fans and consumers who have demonstrated a strong affinity for professional football, and who would be deeply disappointed if two key game telecasts were essentially blacked out. Ninety-seven percent of NFL fans in our media market root for the Cowboys, which rivals the per capita support they receive in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Furthermore, 150,000 fans showed up for pre-season training camp in San Antonio this year when the Cowboys practiced here for only two weeks. We do not want these fans, our constituents, to miss two of the most important games this season while competing corporate forces bicker on financial terms.

Many of those same fans missed out on a key Cowboys game during the critical stretch run for the 2006 playoffs. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans here in Bexar County and around the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers later this year (and Houston Texans fans will miss a key game against the Denver Broncos), or they will have to make a costly switch to a different video provider.



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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78223  
210-532-6000  
FAX: 210-532-4664

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**ROBERT R. PUENTE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 119

For there to be true competitive access in programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. We respectfully ask that you side with the fans in looking at this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute (as we understand was done in Mid-Atlantic Sports Network's dispute in the Washington DC area with Comcast) as soon as possible -- and certainly before the first of such games is scheduled to be played this November.

While primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, we are appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to a state-wide franchise under PURA.

Sincerely,

Members of the Bexar County Delegation

*Robert R. Puente*

Representative Robert Puente

*Ruth Jones McClendon*

Representative Ruth Jones McClendon

*José Menéndez*

Representative Jose Menendez

*Mike Villarreal*

Representative Mike Villarreal

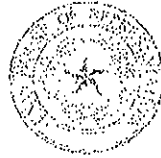
*Joe Farias*

Representative Joe Farias

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners



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P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768-2910  
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Fax: 512.463.0613



District Office:  
120 N. Horizon, Suite 112-A  
El Paso, TX 79927  
915.859.3111  
Fax 915.859.3120

State of Texas  
House of Representatives  
**CHENTE QUINTANILLA**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 75

November 5, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

College fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls which are also carried by the NFL Network. These two bowls have significant ties to the Big 12 Conference and Conference USA, making it more than likely that one, or both, teams playing could hail from the Lonestar State. These games have provided Texas football fans with exciting outcomes in recent years. In fact,



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512.463.0613  
Fax: 512.463.0613



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120 N. Horizon, Suite 112-A  
El Paso, TX 79927  
915.859.3111  
Fax 915.859.3120

State of Texas  
House of Representatives  
**CHENTE QUINTANILLA**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 75

Texas Tech. University staged the largest come from behind victory in college bowl history in last year's Insight Bowl.

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible – and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played this November. It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans involved in this dispute are being held hostage while the corporate interests fight with one another. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bring the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chente Quintanilla", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chente Quintanilla  
State Representative

Cc: Public Utility Commissioners

STATE OF TEXAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**ALLEN VAUGHT**  
DISTRICT 107

**CAPITOL OFFICE**  
POST OFFICE BOX 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0244  
FAX (512) 463-9967  
ALLEN.VAUGHT@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
6301 GASTON AVENUE, SUITE 330  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75214  
(214) 370-8305  
FAX (214) 370-8475

November 9, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin, Chairman  
FCC Commissioners  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the pending issue between the NFL Network and certain cable companies. As a State Legislator, I try to stay neutral on disputes between business entities unless those disputes adversely affect those that I represent — the consumers.

Despite my desire to remain neutral on this issue, my office has received numerous requests from constituents who are upset about the prospect of being unable to follow their teams. It is my understanding that the FCC might take up this dispute in the near future and appoint an arbitrator to hear the facts. If that is the case, then I request that an independent and neutral arbitrator be appointed to resolve this issue.

While I do not know all of the details of the dispute between the NFL Network and the cable companies, I do know that millions of football fans are about to miss several key NFL games unless there is a resolution to the conflict between the aforementioned business entities. Football in Texas is something special. Following our favorite football team is not a hobby, but rather a lifestyle and family tradition here in Texas. The complaints from my constituents convince me that this is about to become a center-stage issue unless something is done to amicably end the dispute between the competing corporate interests.

Please help resolve this issue by having the parties to sit down and address their disputes before a neutral and independent arbitrator who has the authority to end this dispute.

Thank you for considering this request, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen R. Vaught". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "V".

Allen R. Vaught

cc: Texas Public Utility Commissioners